THE INDEPENDENT

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N. P. G. Must Increase Its Membership Or Disband

Three Hundred Members Is Minimum To Hold Organization Together — Support of Members Has Not Been Up To Promises Or Expectations — Directorate Practically All Re-Elected—Meet Again on March 3.

Unless membership is substantially increased the Niagara Peninsula Growers, Limited, which has been in existence for four years, will have to disband. It was announced at the annual meeting in Moore's Theatre on Monday afternoon, when the directors presented a report dealing fully with operating costs. The charge for marketing last season was 20 per cent. of the turnover, and the final statement showed a deficit of $16,000. C. W. Baxter, general manager, expressed confidence in the scheme, and declared that if the total sales could be brought to one million dollars there would be only a very slight change in the operating costs. Co-operation is needed to save the organization, and after the directors placed all information before the 350 growers present it was decided to adjourn until March 3rd, when those who have signed contract forms for 1925 will gather. At this session the future of the co-operative will be decided.

Considering the difficulties encountered the members expressed the opinion that the officials had made a creditable showing, especially in view of the fact that of the total number enrolled as members at the first of the season many did not ship through the company and others only marketed a part crop.

The future of the N. P. G. was debated practically all afternoon, and judging from the statements made by prominent growers the organization will not pass out of existence unless it is absolutely necessary to take such action. A. A. Cruise, president, declared that he would be willing to remain with the company if 300 loyal shipping members could be obtained. Other speakers declared that if the concern could not be operated on the co-operative marketing scheme the constitution should be amended in order that it might be conducted as a buying company.

The tariff was also discussed, but only briefly, as the debate threatened to develop along political lines. A resolution asking that adequate protection be afforded against imported foreign fruits, especially from the United States, carried unanimously.

Year's Activities Reviewed

A. A. Cruise, in reviewing the year's activities stated that the directors did not expect to be able to operate last year at less than 20 per cent., and referred to the fact that the fee was a little higher. Results were disappointing. Mr. Cruise admitted in referring to the directors' recommendation that operations be suspended if there was not greater response to the membership appeal.

R. M. Pothemy, secretary-treasurer, submitted his statement, also the report of the auditors.

The auditors found that the present unsatisfactory situation is due to the failure of growers to co-operate. Assets over liabilities amounted to about $16,000.00. The detailed statement of the operating account showed a deficit of $16,000. There was considerable discussion following the presentation of this statement. Mr. Cuslow, Niagara-on-the-Lake, thought that the item of $59,000 for office expenditure and salaries should be detailed. It was agreed to do this next year, if the company is in existence. Other suggestions were made, and the statement was adopted.

General Manager's Report

C. W. Baxter, in submitting his annual statement, drew attention to the fact that, instead of contracts extending over long periods, any change in the official staff could be made on 30 day's notice, which, he thought, assured greater efficiency. Before Mr. Baxter spoke it was explained that he had cancelled a three years' contract which he had with the company and received his own salary from $4,000 to $5,000 a year.

"What is the real position?" asked Mr. Baxter, explaining that one could not determine what would be best for the future without answering this question. He gave an interesting sketch of the operations of the company since its inception. "Last year 530 members signed contracts, but only 373 shipped, and many of those sent just a portion of their crops. We figured on a shipping membership of 530 and were we not justified in preparing the machinery to sell the crop of these growers? There is a period of depression, we all know, but the bump would be greater if the co-operative had not been in existence. In 1922 the membership was 676; 1923, 816; 1924, 373; and 1924, 286. Since organization there have been 207 one-year contracts, 230 for two years, 160 for three years, and 199 for four years. The company, it can readily be seen, has not received the degree of support from the members it is entitled to, if a substantial busi-

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Tomato Growers Want Fifty Cents Per Bushel

Claim They Cannot Make a Living At a Lesser Price—Government Figures Place Lowest Cost of Production At Fifty-Four Cents—Big Meeting Held.

A largely attended meeting of the Vegetable Growers Association was held in Beamsville Community hall on Monday night to discuss the setting of a minimum price per bushel on tomatoes grown for canning factories.

It was felt that in view of the fact that the Department of Agriculture has, after much trial, proven that fifty four cents per bushel was the cost of growing tomatoes, the growers here could not grow them for less than fifty cents.

R. H. Potter president of the local branch was in the chair and about 150 interested growers composed the audience. After T. L. G. Hewett, the secretary, had read the minutes of the previous meeting, and the president had reported on his attendance at the provincial convention in Toronto last week, the tomato growing question was introduced.

Referring to his work in Toronto, the chairman told of the growers around Toronto having contracted 50,000 bushels at 50c, through the work of George Rush, organizer for the Vegetable Growers Association under appointment of the Hon. J. S. Martin Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.

Mr. Potter told also of meeting a buyer, who wished his name withheld, that would contract 50,000 bushels at 50c. The Vineland growers had held a meeting last week at which another buyer, though not committing himself to a set price, said he would pay as high as anyone.

James Taylor in answer to a query by a member stated that it was a known fact that growers in Prince Edward county on the Bay of Quinte received ten cents more than was paid here.

He told of a reason that had been given him by a big buyer which was considered a joke, and stated that in his opinion the reason was plainly that the growers would not grow tomatoes for less than fifty cents.

William Harper was outspoken in declaring that he would grow no tomatoes for less than fifty cents, and this, and a motion by two others, brought a show of hands on the question of who would hold out for that price. The air was full of hands in response and none were raised on the opposite query.

Col. William Andrewes thought growers should have fifty cents, and that some arrangement should be made to treat with the canners. The government was behind them insofar as having shown that fifty cents was a minimum cost.

George Rush was expected to meet the Vineland growers in a day or so, and on Mr. Taylor's suggestion the executive of the Beamsville organization will confer with them with a view to joint action.

Another suggestion of Mr. Taylor was to the effect that as the association was for the purpose of helping all growers, it was an opportune time for those who were not yet members to join. This brought a hearty response and the membership and treasury—were considerably added to.

There will be another meeting called soon.

MOORE'S THEATRE Attractions

Wed., Feb., 18th,
"The Silent Watcher"
with
Glenn Hunter
and
a comedy

Sat., Feb., 21st.
"The Dixie Cadets"
with
Claire Windsor and Frank Keenan
Pathe News and Aesop Fable

Tues., Feb., 23rd,
"Manhandled"
with
Gloria Swanson
and
a comedy

Wed., Feb., 25th,
"Madonna of the Streets"
with
Nazimova"
and
a comedy

E. F. Williams, Grimsby, October 6, 1926
S. Hunt, Laurel, Mo December 31 1926
A. D. Middaugh, Smithville, December 31, 1925
A. P. Norton, Grimsby, December 31, 1925
Mrs. M. E. Meriam, Butte, Mont. February 24, 1925

TOWN COUNCIL HOLDS SESSION

W. E. Drury Appointed to Library Board—Changes Made in By-law Governing Restaurants—Hydro Radial Debentures

The postponed meeting of the town council was held on Friday afternoon, at the appointed hour.

Mansell—Bird—That W. E. Drury be appointed to the Public Library board for a period of three years.

A communication was received from Albert Pay, Clerk of St. Catharines re Hydro meeting at St. Catharines on Wednesday Feb., 25th, of all Municipalities, from Niagara to Port Credit, interested in return of Hydro Electric railway bonds.

Accounts to the amount of $516 were passed and ordered paid.

A motion was passed authorizing the treasurer to pay lighting and other accounts, subject to discount, so that discount can be taken advantage of.

The by-law for the licensing and regulating restaurants was brought up. The amount payable was placed at $10.00 and the license applies only the premises occupied when license was granted.

All applications must be made to the council.

The Mayor fought to have the hour for closing made twelve at night. Alderman St. John wanted the hour made 1 a.m.; Durham suggested 6 a.m. to 12 midnight and none of the rest of the council had anything to say; so none can get a meal after midnight. Tourists and Nighthawks please note.

The matter of appointment of an assistant to the Clerk was laid over to a special meeting, which was held Monday night.

There are some forty applicants.

START CANARD

A yarn went the rounds of Grimsby on Tuesday that, when the Wentworth fire started, telephone connection could not be made.

On inquiry C. A. F. Smith informs The Independent that the service was good and the answer prompt.

The bell on the phone at the home of the fire chief did not ring too well because of apparent lack of electric energy, but the story told conveyed the impression, that the Smiths could not get central.

Those who wish to bump the Bell company or operators should find facts instead of starting Canards.

MANY PROBLEMS IN SALTFLEET

That a township school is the only logical solution of the educational problem being faced at present by the people of Saltfleet and other townships in Wentworth county, occasioned by the determined stand of the Hamilton board of education to collect $175 per year for every county pupil attending city collegiate, is an opinion which is gathering impetus in Saltfleet. Those in support of a local high school point to the annual influx of new residents and say it is only a matter of a very short time in any event before Saltfleet must consider its own collegiate. Now, when confronted with what is termed an unfortunate charge by Hamilton, is the opportune time to act, it is argued, as there is no assurance that the levy may not exact even $200 per pupil in the future. Some suggest that Saltfleet link up with 20 adjoining township and undertake a new scheme between them, thereby distributing the burden of expense over a wider area. And it may be mentioned that this has already received consideration privately among certain members of the county council.

In The Churches

BAPTIST

Rev. T. E. Richards B. A., Minister

Sunday Feb. 22nd.

11 a.m. Public Worship

2.30 Bible school with Adult classes

7 p.m. Rev. H. Stansell of Toronto General Secretary of the Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission board will speak.

A hearty welcome to all

The Ladies Aid will meet at the home of Mrs. W. W. Kidd, Main St. east on Thursday afternoon.

PEACH KING UPSET LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday the thirteenth! day of the month! Ugh! But little things like that do not pass the town council of Grimsby. The regular meeting was to have been held on Wednesday night last, but as the Brantford hockey game was on that date the meeting had to be postponed.

But to what date was the question. Thursday night was to be the Junior hockey fixture Oakville vs Grimsby; Friday night the return match with Brantford: Saturday—fog night.

The meeting can be held on the schedule of the next eclipse would be thrown out of plumb.

So they decided on Friday afternoon, the thirteenth day, but almost at the thirteenth hour.

Such is the fate of hockey—with a winning team.

INJURED WHEN CAR HITS POLE

Norton Orchestra Figures in Auto Smash—Miss Florence Norton Receives Bad Cuts to Face In Raging Blizzard

While returning from a dance at Harrisonville, on Wednesday night, the Norton orchestra met with an accident.

The Misses Florence and Dorothy Norton were being driven home by J. Orion Livingston, member of the orchestra. Proceeding up Livingston avenue and on turning into Kidd avenue, the car went [illegible] into a telegraph pole.

The impact caused the occupants to be thrown forward, Miss Florence Norton with sufficient force to throw her against the windshield frame causing a wound that required six stitches to close. Miss Dorothy received a slightly sprained ankle.

A sewer is being dug along Livingston avenue, making the street very narrow, and, with a blinding snowstorm at the time, it was very hard to see just were to turn. Mr Livingston's car was not damaged, but all the passengers are suffering from the shock, and it was a trying ordeal for Miss Norton to carry on her engagement at Beamsville on Friday night.

RADIO CLUB HAS FINE MEETING

The regular meeting of the Radio Club, Friday evening last, was most enjoyable and instructive.

Mr Parsons radio engineer of the Presto-lite Battery works, Toronto divided radio circuits into three types and then showed why the difference was caused and how. He also gave some very interesting data on radio patents with reference to well known makes of sets sold in Canada. Some idea of the extensive use of radio in Canada may be gained from the following figures: A total of 787 private radio receiving licenses have been issued in Canada by the radio branch, department of marine and fisheries, from April 1 to December 31, 1924, representing an advance [illegible] compared with the same period in 1923, in which the number granted was 23,648. During December alone 9,000 licenses, exactly, were issued. A license costs $1.

It is to be hoped some of the revenue from the sale of licenses will some day be devoted to a system of inspection which will eliminate some of the interference so annoying now.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At the annual meeting of the Lena Dove chapter, I. O. O. F., Smithville, Bro. H. F. Crout was elected regent; Mrs. McLennan, [illegible] regent, and Mrs. A. J. M[illegible] vice regent. Mrs. W. H. Pallister was reappointed secretary, as was Mrs. A. Armstrong, treasurer. Mrs. (Dr.) Smale, standard bearer. Councillors elected were: Mrs. E. F. Hurst, Mrs. Locke, Mrs. (Dr.) Freeman, Mrs. W. L. Sing, [illegible] Mrs. A. L. [illegible] Marshall, Mrs. T. W. Woodland, Mrs. G. S. Karr, Mrs. W. Orth, Mrs. L. [illegible] Tufford and Mrs. H. H. Wilkinson.

SAVE MONEY—READ THE ADS.

Must Control Grape Crop Or Not Operate This Year

McVicar Bookkeeper And Assistant to Clerk Randall

Joint Town Council and Water Commission Appoint Lanky Hockey Defence Man to Defend Books—Boyd As Auditor—Randall Re-Appointed Clerk and Treasurer.

At the joint meeting of the Town Council and Water Commission on Monday night, W. F. Randall was re-appointed clerk and treasurer with the added duties of superintendent of works at a reduction in salary, it now being $1400.

J. Ritchie McVicar was appointed to the new position of book-keeper and assistant town clerk at $1000; while C. S. Boyd was named Auditor at $1.00 an hour.

St. John and Burgoyne of the Council, and Hagar of the water Commission were sought to have J. H. Forman remained as auditor, but the other members must needs have a change and so prevailed.

The appointment of a bookkeeper called for much discussion, but some of the council felt that the hockey club deserved some consideration and "Mac" was given the job so he will get some exercise to keep in training.

Mansell—Manley—That C. S. Boyd be appointed Auditor for municipality of Town of Grimsby for the year 1925, at $1.00 per hour, and he to make a monthly audit—carried.

St. John—Burgoyne—In amendment that J. H. Forman be appointed auditor for 1925 at $1.00 per hour, and that he make a complete monthly audit—Lost.

Burgoyne—St. John—That J. R. McVicar be appointed to position of bookkeeper at $1000 per year—Carried.

Durham—Hunter—In amendment that F. W. Andrews be appointed bookkeeper and tax collector at $1000 per year.—Lost.

Durham—Mansell—That W. F. Randall be engaged as clerk, treasurer and superintendent of works for 1925, at $1200.—Lost.

Burgoyne—St. John—In amendment that W. F. Randall be appointed clerk, treasurer and superintendent at $1400.—Carried.

Mansell—Manley—That this council do now adjourn to meet at call of the Mayor or Reeve.

LOST ALL IN EARLY BLAZE

Family of William Wentworth Driven In Night Attire Into Snow on Tuesday Morning—Need Help

The home of William A. Wentworth, at the corner of Main Street and Oakes road, on the farm of C. A. P. and M. B. Smith, North Grimsby, was completely destroyed, with all contents on Tuesday morning.

The family were sleeping downstairs, and about six o'clock one of the children was awakened by fire falling through the ceiling onto its crib. The child's cries awakened the rest of the family, but the fire was so far advanced that they escaped only in their night clothes.

The fire is supposed to have started in the chimney, and the whole top of the house was gone before the fire was noticed.

The fire department was called and made the two and a half-mile run in short order, but could do nothing.

Everything was a complete loss and the family is in need of clothes, bedding, dishes, etc. There are three boys two, five and fifteen years, besides the parents. The Messrs. Smith have a house for them, and anyone having anything they can contribute to the needs of the family are requested to do so, as it will be appreciated. A telephone call to 2 Ring 4, Grimsby will be sufficient and any articles will be sent for.

Remember William A. fought in South Africa, and in the Great War.

ONLY DORMANT

A visitor in Grimsby the other day, while walking past the property of The Canadian Bank of Commerce, noticed the slanting stone that stands near the centre of the lot. At first he did not read what was on the stone and remarked:

"That's a funny place for a grave"; and curiosity, impelled him to read inscription.

"Grimsby Horticultural Society."

"What is the joke?" he mused. "Is it dead?" When told the society was very much alive he grunted: "Looks like a tombstone."

USE US.

LOW ALL IN EARLY BLAZE

Decision Reached by the Shareholders of Niagara District Grape Growers—All Directors Were Re-Elected — President Aggrieved At the Number of Cancellations During Last Year—Company In Good Shape Financially.

The shareholders of the Niagara District Grape Growers, Limited, at the annual meeting in Queen's Hall, St. Catharines, on Saturday afternoon, decided that the company must have practical control of the entire carlot sales of grapes this year to continue in operation. The meeting, by almost unanimous vote, empowered the directors of the Company to cease operations for the period of one year providing the Company has not practical control of the carlot sales by April 1st. This, it was declared by President J. B. Gallinger, Stamford, would mean from 85 to 90 per cent. of the entire crop of the district.

As a manifestation of this faith in the ability of the present directors the shareholders re-elected all to office for another year.

The meting was well attended and in extending a welcome to the meeting, President Gallinger stated that the day was a turning point in the company's business. "We have got to see sufficient control today to carry on," he declared. "The financial position of the company is the best it has ever been. We have cleaned house this year and are now in a strong financial position."

The president expressed himself as grieved with the number of cancellations of contracts being received, stating, stating he could not understand the grower. "We have handled your business to the best of our ability and have done remarkably well for the quality of grapes that you delivered last year," he stated. "But we cannot carry on without co-operation, we cannot carry on when you send in your cancellations. We have got to have your assistance and your contracts."

The referred to the account of the National Fruit and Wine Company as a very good one, stating that while in 1924 the company had earned the growers $60,347, that up to February 7th they had paid $33,631, leaving $27,315 with interest at 8 per cent. Two parties, he stated, had been negotiating for the purchase of the wine company and the entire debt would probably be wiped off within a few months. To Secretary-Treasurer W. C. Thompson, the President gave the credit for the successful termination of the account against the wine company.

Secretary's Report

Secretary-Treasurer W. C. Thompson presentedto the meeting his annual report as follows:

"The producer is securing through an organized co-operative outlet a better financial return for his products. This company's present financial position should be and is a guarantee to members shipping through it that their interests are best served by such an enterprise; providing the conduct of its business be along the lines of sane, conservative and responsible business management.

With a reserve as is shown on the company's statement in excess of $14,000.00, all readily realizable and taking into consideration that not more than $4,200 of actual capital has been furnished by the shareholders, and as well that the turnover of this company over the five years' period has been in excess of $3,250,000.00 you have reason for satisfaction.

"Co-operation is not a cure-all or panacea for all the troubles of the farmer. Co-operative bargaining and marketing has shown a very much increased return to the grape growers as a whole through this district. All have benefitted and you the loyal shareholders and supporting members have made this result possible.

"The increase of business represented by carload shipments in 1924 over 1923 would total about 1,200 tons of grapes or equal to 120 carloads. The price for which grapes sold in 1924 being considerably less than in 1923 does not show an equally increased amount in the total turnover. It will be interesting, however, to compare the cost of handling grapes in the two years. On a basis of 949 carloads handled in 1923 that charge would work out at $102.00 per car, while in 1924 on 779 carloads handled the cost as shown is, $95.50 per car. These charges, verified by our financial statement, cover every item occurring over the entire 12 months of operations. These items being shown in detail on the year's report which is in your hands. As in each year the company's report shows in detail all expenditure, in such a manner that comparison can be readily made year by year. It is only fair to point out that should this company's records be kept on a basis of the actual net dollars received from sales; having first deducted the cost of making the sales, or in other words from the net amount received the company only having to deduct what would be fairly termed overhead, not to include selling, loading, or other expenses, that overhead charge would be not more than 3 per cent.

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SMITHVILLE H. S. ENTERTAINED

A jolly time was spent at Fieldsday last by the Smithville High School Athletic association as guests of Mr. Gibb's gymnasium group of the Tuxis class of St. Andrews Anglican church.

The Smithville boys were accompanied by the girls of the school—everyone in all—and on arrival per sob sleigh and team, were taken to the Arena for a hockey game which Smithville won 3-2. After the game they repaired to Parish hall where Miss Lelia Metcalf had entire charge of entertaining the appetites of the crowd. She was ably assisted by the ladies of the church and a chicken pie supper was served.

After the supper Mrs. Liddle's Girls' Auxiliary assisted the Tuxis boys in entertaining the visitors. The Rev. J. Allan Ballard occupied the chair, and Mrs. Ballard was present, assisting in the entertaining.

Mr Ballard welcomed the visitors in short address, which was replied to by Arthur Trumbly, and Lester Neal of Grimsby member of the Ontario co-parliament also spoke. After a short sing-song and a most hearty vote of thanks to Miss Metcalf and the ladies, the party returned to the Arena and enjoy skating for a couple of hours, forming again in Parish hall for a lunch before proceeding home.

REBEKAH LODGE ORGANIZED

A very large and enthusiastic meeting was held on Tuesday evening of last week, in the I. O. O. F. banquet hall, when the preliminaries in connection with forming a Rebekah lodge were gone through.

Mrs. Charles Mann, of Hamilton, Ontario president, and Mrs. Taylor, of Hamilton, were present and outlined the work that was before those who were about to become members.

The following officers were nominated: Mrs. Thos. Voigt, noble grand; Mrs. Robert Hughes, vice grand; Mrs. E. V. Hoffman, recording secretary; Mrs James F. Bird, financial secretary; Mrs. V. Tuck, treasurer.

On the afternoon February [illegible] elections took place, and the [illegible] of the Rebekah degree was conferred on forty-two candidates.

ONLY $5,000 FOR N. G. ROADS

Council Cuts Expenditure of Last Year By Sixty-Five Per Cent.—Beach Water Assessment Adjusted

North Grimsby township council met as a court of revision to hear complaints and make adjustments on the Grimsby Beach waterworks system installation, on Saturday afternoon. The main work of the court was to get the many lots tagged to the proper owners. Changes are many at the Beach and so many lots have changed hands since the last plan was drawn that it took several hours to get them adjusted.

John Pearson of Toronto and others appeared. Mr. Pearson to try and get a different rate of charges against corner properties that appear to be too high pro rata, but the Local Improvement Act is distinct on the question and the charge could not be altered.

Engineer Rutherford and Clerk Allan put in a busy afternoon but got matters settled satisfactorily. Some of the cottagers inquired as to what the rate per rottage would be this season, and that was explained to the effect that the water for cottages all goes through one meter and they are charged in accordance with the number taking water, each paying alike. The system cost about $60,000 and works out to 16.56197 cents per foot frontage, and corner properties are charged for frontage and two-thirds of the depth.

In the regular session of the council a bylaw passed to provide $5,000 for public works—$2500 for new roads and bridges, and $2500 for maintenance and repairs. This is about $11.00[illegible] was spent last year.

Accounts amounting to $388.37 were passed, including $41.25 for removing snow; $24.15 for relief; $100.00 for engineer's work on side walks; $77.08 for lighting; $23.10 for work on waterworks.

The Toronto General hospital notified the council that John Babiuk was in that institution; W. S. VanEvery county agricultural representative wrote asking a grant for school fairs, and enclosing a statement of finances. There is a balance on hand of $25.72. And the Salvation Army asked a grant for restoration work.